City of Columbus – Bartholomew County Planning Department

123 Washington Street Columbus, Indiana 47201 Phone: (812) 376-2550 Fax: (812) 376-2643





MEMORANDUM

TO: The Bartholomew County Plan Commission

FROM: Thom Weintraut

DATE: March 1, 2012

RE: A proposal: to officially change the name of County Road 350 East between 25th Street and

County Road 250 North.

In November of 2011, The Bartholomew County Commissioners were asked by Tom Bonnell to consider renaming a section of County Road 350 East between 25th Street and County Road 250 North to Bonnell Road. Mr. Bonnell stated his great-grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Bonnell, and grandfather, Frank Bonnell, along with their hired labor constructed what would be become County Roads 350 East, 250 North, 350 North, and 425 East to allow electrical service to be provided to the area. Mr. Bonnell researched a 1976 Phone Directory and found reference to an address of 3401 Bonnell Road (now 3401 County Road 350 East). Attached is a map of the portion of the road in involved in this request.

County Road 350 East is part of the grid system of numbered road intersections based on a North – South (N-S), East – West (E-W), grid beginning near the intersection of Third Street and Vollmer Street in the City of Columbus. A road 1 mile north of the N-S / E-W intersection point would be labeled as 100 N and so forth, and any road 1 mile to the east of the N-W / E-W would be 100 East, etc.

County Roads that do not follow the numbering system typically either do not closely align to the cardinal directions (N,S,E,W) or are a continuous road that changes directions several times over the course of their alignment.

Article 5 Division 1 of the Bartholomew County Code outlines the process for naming County Roads. Section 5-156 establishes a street and road renaming committee made up of representatives of the County Commissioners, Post Office, County Sherriff, Emergency Operations Center, Volunteer Fire Departments, County Surveyor's Office, County Engineer, Chief Code Enforcement Officer, and Planning Director. The Street and Road Renaming Committee makes a recommendation to the County Commissioners who by resolution make a recommendation for change to the Bartholomew County Plan Commission who have the authority for final name change.

The Bartholomew County Street and Road Renaming Committee met on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 to review the proposal and made an unfavorable recommendation to the Bartholomew County Commissioners due to public safety concerns about removing the numbered road name from the county grid system and possibility creating confusion and difficulty locating the road and the effect that it might cause on emergency response.

In addition to the public safety and wayfinding issues, the committee also expressed concerns that changing the road name may prompt other residents to seek to rename their roads and ultimately over time undue the numbering system that was so valuable for public safety, wayfinding and emergency response.

At their regular public meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012, the Bartholomew County Commissioners took public comment on the proposed renaming. A member of the public expressed comment that there is a cost and inconvenience involved to property owners affected by the name change such as address

changes to mail other public documents. It was noted that there are only 3 properties addressed on this section of County Road 350 East, one that contains only agriculture structures, one with a vacant residence, and the third is The Ridge Church which is under construction. Renaming the road at this time would have less impact now then in the future after development occurs. The Commissioners considered the historic reference of the proposed name since the Bonnell family helped build the road to provide electricity to the area early in the 20th Century.

The Commissioners discussed the concerns regarding wayfinding and emergency response and determined since 350 East is less than .25 miles from the City of Columbus' corporate boundary and that in the near future it is likely the road will be annexed into the City and renamed. The Commissioners also noted that 350 East is part of the numbered grid system of roads however it is fragmented into 5 sections and that renaming this section should not create confusion by interrupting the numbered grid system. Below is the location of County Road 350 East.

- 1. There are two sections in Sandcreek Township; a 1.3 mile section from Azalia south to 900 South and a 1 mile section between 500 and 600 South
- 2. In Columbus Township there is a 1/4 mile section connecting State Road 46 (State Street) with 200 South
- 3. This 1 mile section in Clay Township
- 4. In Flat Rock Township, 350 East begins at 600 North and extends approximately 3.5 miles north where is turns into 375 East and continues to the Shelby County line

Therefore, the Commissioners have forwarded this request to you with a favorable recommended to change the name to Bonnell Road.